

for implementing such program, including recommendations regarding—

(1) the institutional arrangements, treaties, or laws necessary to implement a coordinated oceanography program;

(2) the methods and incentives needed to secure cooperation and commitments from participating nations to ensure that the benefit that each nation that is a party to any international agreement establishing a coordinated oceanography program receives is contingent upon meeting the nation's obligations (financial and otherwise) under such an agreement;

(3) the costs associated with establishing a coordinated oceanography program;

(4) the types of undersea vehicles, ships, observing systems, or other equipment that would be necessary to operate a coordinated oceanography program; and

(5) how utilization of aboriginal observational data and other historical information may be best incorporated into a coordinated oceanography program.

#### SEC. 5. OBTAINING DATA.

Subject to national security restrictions, the Panel may obtain from any department or agency of the United States information necessary to enable it to carry out this Act. Upon request of the chairperson of the Panel, the head of any department or agency shall furnish that information at no cost to the Panel.

#### SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of carrying out this Act, and to remain available until expended, \$1,500,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2090.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2090 requires the Secretary of Commerce to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to establish a Coordinated Oceanographic Program Advisory Panel. The Panel will submit a report to Congress on the feasibility and social value of a coordinated international oceanography program.

Recent technical advances have given us the ability to fully explore the world's oceans.

□ 1500

As an example, in the district that I am privileged to represent, a project in Tuckerton, New Jersey, called the Long-term Ecological Observatory, better known to us at home as FEO-15, measures ocean processes along the New Jersey coast and in Little Egg Harbor and Barnegat Bay. This legislation will enhance programs just like FEO-15 for their success.

While there have been many tremendous advances in oceanography tech-

nology over the past 15 years, the United States does not have yet a comprehensive plan for determining what data needs to be collected or for integrating that data into a usable system.

This bill, H.R. 2090, is a positive step in moving this technology forward in an efficient way; and I urge support of the exploration. And I might say at this point, Mr. Speaker, that I congratulate the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) for leading us to the floor with this very important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I again compliment and thank my good friend, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans for his management of this legislation, and I do commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) as the chief author of this legislation, H.R. 2090.

Mr. Speaker, the world's oceans are critical to human health, as well as the vitality of our entire planet. The establishment of an advisory panel to examine the feasibility and value of a coordinated domestic and international oceanography program makes good sense.

With this in mind, I do support the principles and the provisions behind the passage of the Exploration of the Seas Act. I just have a little concern about the relevance and the need of the legislation, given the fact that earlier this year we did pass the Oceans Act of 2000 which was passed by the Congress and subsequently signed by the President on August 7 of this year.

This law already establishes a commission to evaluate and make recommendations on oceans policy. And I just thought that maybe there may be a little duplication here, but on the other hand I think on anything relevant to the situation affecting the oceans policies, where over the years we really have not given really any real substantive examination of this very, very important issue, perhaps the gentleman's legislation will add on to what we are sincerely trying to bring about this real coordinated effort with all the agencies involved between the White House and especially with the Congress so we can really look at a national oceans policy having the participation and coordination of all relevant Federal agencies that should be a participant in this effort. I just wanted to express that concern.

I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the support of my friend from Amer-

ican Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA). I would just like to comment, relative to his concerns on duplication, obviously the Oceans Act that we passed here a short time ago is a very important act because it essentially provides for an opportunity to take a look at how United States ocean policy is developed and carried out. Obviously, the Stratton Commission that was created in the late 1960s and reported to the Congress in 1969 provided an opportunity for us to make some changes and establish a great organization known as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

This bill differs in two ways. Number one, it is international in scope, which gives us the opportunity to cooperate with, exchange information with, extract cooperative efforts from our friends around the world who are also engaged in various types of oceanography studies and the development of technology. I think that many of our friends around the world recognize, as we do, that there is a need for better ocean stewardship, and to the extent that we can cooperate with them through programs like the one that we are creating or moving to create here today will be, I think, a great advantage.

Secondly, the Oceans Act takes a broad look at United States ocean policy, domestic policy. This act is a very narrow focus on technology, and so I think that is an important distinction and one that mitigates for the important passage of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD).

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) not only for yielding to me but for all of his help in moving this bill through the subcommittee, as well as the minority ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the Exploration of the Seas Act, H.R. 2090, which is a necessary step if mankind is ever to realize the untapped potential of the world's oceans.

The Exploration of the Seas Act accomplishes this goal by directing the Secretary of Commerce to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to establish a coordinated oceanographic program advisory panel comprised of experts in ocean studies, which will create a blueprint of how to implement an international undersea exploration effort.

A visitor to our solar system asked to name the third planet from the sun would most certainly not name it Earth as early land-bound humans did, but rather Oceania for the dominating character of its seas. Seventy-five percent of our planet's surface and 95 percent of its biosphere is ocean.

Life began in the sea, which is now the home of somewhere between 10 and 100 million spectacularly diverse species. Ninety-seven percent of the planet's water is in its oceans. The oceans